

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 05113 151444Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-10 EUR-12 L-03 SS-15 MCE-00
SSO-00 INRE-00 NEA-10 /056 W
-----119478 151451Z /41
R 151430Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5485

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 05113

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: MASS, IS, BE
SUBJECT: SALE TO ISRAEL: FMS CASE NO. DPDR-EBR

REF: DLA/DPDR EUROPE LINDSEY AS GER MSG 141030ZMAR78

1. REFTEL INDICATES THAT SHIPMENT OF 10,000 CARBINES IN QUESTION HAS ESCAPED USG CONTROL AND GONE AROUND SYSTEM FOR HANDLING SUCH CASES WORKED OUT WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT. WE ALSO HAVE NOTED DPDR LINDSEY'S RECOMMENDATION THAT THIS CASE BE CONSIDERED CLOSED.
2. WERE THIS A UNIQUE CASE OF MANAGEMENT ERROR, EMIGHT ACCEPT THE DPDR LINDSEY RECOMMENDATION. AS IT IS NOT (E.G. TELS CITED BRUSSELS 3872 WHICH WERE PROVOKED BY PREVIOUS ERRORS), AND AS WE ARE AWARE OF BELGIAN SENSITIVITIES ON THIS AND OTHER U.S. MILITARY ACTIVITIES WHICH TOUCH ON BELGIAN INTERESTS, WE DO NOT ACCEPT DPDR LINDSEY'S RECOMMENDATION.
3. ON THIS SPECIFIC CASE, IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT HAD WE NOT TWICE ASKED FOR SPECIFIC ASSURANCES THAT SHIPMENT WAS STILL UNDER USG CONTROL (BRUSSELS 3872 AND 4943), AND THEN FOUND OUT THAT IT WAS NOT (REFTEL), WE WOULD
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HAVE CALLED THE CASE TO THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT'S ATTENTION IN AN AMBASSADOR TO FOREIGN MINISTER LETTER REQUESTING GOB PROCESSING OF THE EXPORT LICENSE. HAD THAT OCCURRED, THE GOB WOULD HAVE FOUND OUT THAT THE USG HAD VIOLATED THE ESTABLISHED SYSTEM. THE GOB'S REACTION MIGHT HAVE HAD SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR FUTURE SHIPMENTS AND COULD EASILY HAVE HAD A SPILLOVER EFFECT ON OTHER MILITARY

MATTERS UNDER DISCUSSION OF CONSIDERABLY MORE IMPORTANCE.
IT IS ALSO WORTH NOTING THAT WE HAD ALERTED DPDR LINDSEY
BY TELEPHONE PRIOR TO THE SENDING OF DPDR LINDSEY
MSG 151436ZFEB78 THAT WE INSISTED THAT THE ARMS SHIPMENT
REMAIN UNDER USG CONTROL UNTIL THE MANAGEMENT QUESTION
RAISED IN THAT MESSAGE WAS RESOLVED.

4. WE HAVE KNOWLEDGE THAT THE ISRAELI AGENT IN ANTWERP
WHO SETS UP SUCH SHIPMENTS (W.J. D'HOOGHE, STELLA
HAVENBEDRIJF N.V., WHO WORKS WITH HYDROMA GMBH IN
GERMANY) IS NOT ABOVE SMUGGLING AND BRIBING IN ORDER TO
ACHIEVE HIS ACTIVITIES ON BEHALF OF ISRAEL. WE HAVE NO
PROBLEM IN DEALING WITH HIM ON WELL MANAGED QUESTIONS
(SUCH AS THESE SHIPMENTS) IN WHICH THERE IS A COMMON
USG AND THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT INTEREST. WE CANNOT,
HOWEVER, COUNT ON HIM TO TAKE PAINS TO SEE THAT U.S.-
BELGIAN INTERESTS ARE NOT PUT IN JEOPARDY.

5. WE THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT STATE CONSIDER APPROACHING
DOD TO REVIEW HOW SUCH SHIPMENTS ARE HANDLED IN
GENERAL, WITH SPECIFIC ATTENTION TO THIS CASE AND THE
CHRONOLOGY AND REASONS FOR THE LOSS OF USG CONTROL OVER
THIS SHIPMENT OF 10,000 CARBINES. WE UNDERSTAND THAT IT
WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH PAST PRACTICE TO REQUEST THE
OASD/ISA CHAIRMAN OF THE MIDDLE EAST TASK GROUP TO
CONVENE A WORKING GROUP, WITH STATE REPRESENTATIVE, TO
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LOOK INTO THE QUESTION. CHAMBERS

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Message Attributes

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